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VIRGINIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE FOR 2002

RICHMOND – The Virginia Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) showed 142 occupational fatalities in the Commonwealth in 2002, down slightly from the 146 fatalities in 2001. Transportation accidents (50), which includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, decreased by 26 percent from 2001 and continued to be the leading cause of workplace fatalities. Falls (24) were at the highest level since the series began in 1992, up 50 percent from the previous year. Assaults and violent acts (22), which includes homicides and suicides, more than doubled from 2001, while contact with objects and equipment (22), mainly workers struck by falling object (13), declined by 29 percent. (See figure 2.)

In 2001, 146 fatal work injuries occurred in Virginia, excluding the 165 work-related fatalities that resulted from the September 11 terrorist attacks. The comparisons in this release do not include the fatalities related to the terrorist attacks.

Construction (48) had the most deaths of any industry division and was at the highest level since the series began in 1992, accounting for a third of the fatal work-related injuries. Manufacturing (12) showed the largest decrease, 45 percent, from 2001.

“Knowing how fatalities happen helps pinpoint where safety and health problems may exist, and efforts to address hazards can be put in place if needed,” said Labor and Industry Commissioner C. Ray Davenport. “The decrease, even though small, in the number of work-

related deaths in 2002 is a testament to our efforts, as well as those of Virginia businesses, of striving to ensure safe and healthy workplace environments in the Commonwealth.”

- Seventy-six percent of employees killed on the job were private sector wage and salary workers; 16 percent were self-employed workers; the rest were government workers.
- Men accounted for 91 percent of the work-related fatalities in Virginia.
- Workers aged 25 to 54, the prime working age group, made up 72 percent of the fatalities in 2002.
- Seventy-one percent of the fatal victims were white, non-Hispanic; 15 percent were black, non-Hispanic; 11 percent were Hispanic or Latino; 2 percent were Asian.
- Four specific occupations accounted for almost a third of the workplace fatalities: **truck drivers (21)**, 16 were highway accidents, 7 of which were collision between vehicles, mobile equipment; **carpenters (9)**, one-third were due to fall to lower level; **farmers, except horticultural (7)**, 5 were non-highway accidents; and **managers and administrators, n.e.c. (7)**, 3 were due to contact with objects and equipment.

Virginia Workplace Fatalities by Event or Exposure, 1997-2001

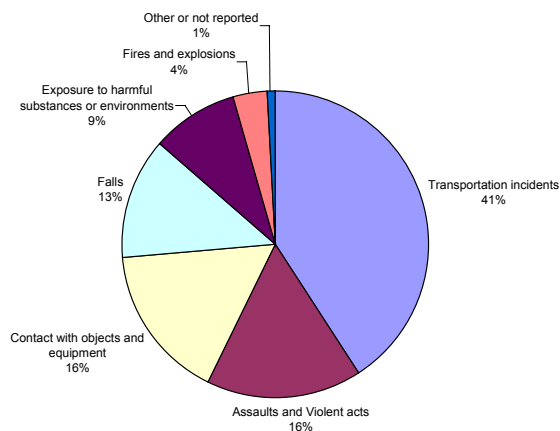


Figure 1

Virginia Workplace Fatalities by Event or Exposure, 2002

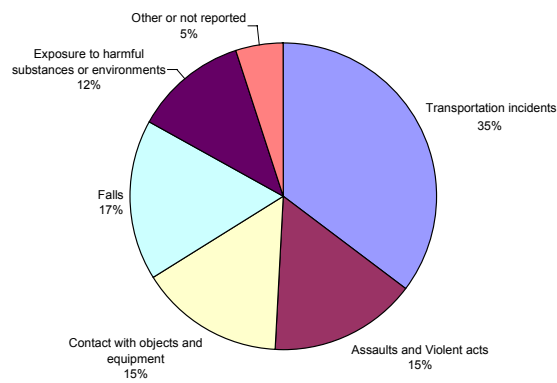


Figure 2

NOTE: Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Nationwide

A total of 5,524 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2002, a decline of 7 percent from 2001, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The count for 2002 was the

lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. Additional information on the national census of fatal occupational injuries can be found by accessing the following web link, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>.

More Info Statewide

For detailed statistical tables on the Virginia Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), **see the links below**. Also, information can be requested by contacting our department at (804) 786-1035 or by sending an email to crewsd@bls.gov.

Technical Notes

The Virginia Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries was conducted by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiner's reports, state worker's compensation reports, newspaper articles, state and federal OSHA reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality for the census was substantiated by at least two independent source documents.

The CFOI program is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries and basic information on fatalities such as how the injury occurred, the type of industry that was involved, as well as, the occupation and demographic data of the employee. It is hoped that the availability of improved, more detailed data will be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work related or that occurred at work. A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

Virginia CFOI Tables:

[Table 1 – 2002 Virginia CFOI by Event](#)

[Table 2 – 2002 Virginia CFOI by Worker Characteristics](#)

[Table 3 – 2002 Virginia CFOI by Occupation](#)

[Table 4 – 2002 Virginia CFOI by Industry](#)

[Table A – Virginia CFOI by Event by Year](#)

[Table B – Virginia CFOI by Occupation by Year](#)

[Table C – Virginia CFOI by Industry by Year](#)